

	<h2>Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee</h2> <h3>8 October 2020</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Member’s Item – Applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>Various wards within Finchley and Golders Green constituency</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Salar Rida – Governance Officer  <a href="mailto:Salar.Rida@barnet.gov.uk">Salar.Rida@barnet.gov.uk</a>                  Tel: 020 8359 7113</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	
<p>This report informs the Area Committee that requests for CIL funding have been submitted. The Committee is requested to consider the information highlighted within this report and make a determination on its desired course of action in accordance with its powers.</p>	

<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Area Committee consider the requests as highlighted in section 1 of the report.</li> <li>2. That the Area Committee decide whether it wishes to:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) agree the requests and note the implications to the Committee’s CIL funding budget;</li> <li>(b) defer the decision for funding for further information; or</li> <li>(c) reject the application, giving reasons.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The following requests for funding from the Committee's allocated CIL budget have been raised:

Title	Cherry Tree Wood, N2
Raised by (Councillor)	Councillor Alison Moore
Ward	East Finchley Ward
Area Committee	Finchley & Golders Green
Member Request	<p>The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood was established as a charity (No. 1060923) in 1990 and has been concerned with this remnant ancient woodland since that time. Our Charitable objectives are:</p> <p>[1] to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit  [2] to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit;  [3] to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.</p> <p>In the past 12 months we have been undertaking works to improve the Wood. Prior to the Lockdown we held monthly general clean up and litter picks. We have built and erected bird and bat boxes with the help of local families, held well attended walks on the local history of Cherry Tree Wood, planted a small community orchard and are in the process of formally adopting the community orchard and adjacent flower beds which we have also planted up. During Lockdown we have 'crowdfunded' the watering of the young orchard trees. We maintain regular contact with our supporters – nearly 400 - via email newsletters. We have a strong social media presence on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>The Friends undertook a survey of residents during 2019 which received over 300 replies. Top issues involve the state of the bins and concerns about management of the Wood. (Copies of the reports are appended)</p> <p>A botanical survey of the Wood to feed into a proposed management plan for Cherry Tree Wood has been</p>

	<p>commissioned by the Friends but work has been delayed by COVID-19.</p> <p>The importance and value of open space to physical and mental well being is known and well documented. The impact of COVID-19 has served only to emphasise its value. Our survey work demonstrates the value that local people place on Cherry Tree Wood – for a variety of reasons and has helped to identify some key works that should be undertaken to maintain and enhance its value. These are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of 3 new dual sentinel litter bins;</li> <li>• Refurbishment of two raised flower beds by the tea kiosk; once refurbished these will be replanted and maintained under an Adopt a Place Agreement by the Friends;</li> <li>• New noticeboard – to be managed in future by the Friends;</li> <li>• Provision of a nature trail for under 10's within the Wood;</li> <li>• Provision of a 'granular surface' from the Summerlee Avenue entrance to the rear gate of the children's playground. This is currently very worn and in places is prone to be a mud bath.</li> <li>• Provision of a water fountain to serve both people and for dogs located near the kiosk.</li> <li>• Improve drainage by noticeboard</li> <li>• Purchase of a bat monitor</li> <li>• Planting of willow area to produce crop for basket weaving.</li> </ul> <p>The Friends intend an initial investment of £300 in tools which will enable them to undertake basic maintenance work to supplement that already undertaken by the Parks Service. Once agreement to store these within one of the buildings in the Wood, which will also act as a base for the Friends Group, then this investment in tools can be made. We have already invested volunteer time, resources and materials in the community orchard, bulb planting and bird and bat boxes along with commissioning the botanical survey.</p> <p>Together the investment by the Friends group along with this CIL funding investment will provide a strong base for the continued good maintenance of this well used and loved public space.</p>															
Funding Required (£)	<p>Costing for the works is estimated by Greenspaces to be</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 1899 1391 2038"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Cost</th> <th>Installation</th> <th>No.</th> <th>total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dual Sentinel Bin</td> <td>£744</td> <td>£195</td> <td>3</td> <td>£2817</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Notice board</td> <td>£1,070</td> <td>£195</td> <td>1</td> <td>£1265</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Cost	Installation	No.	total	Dual Sentinel Bin	£744	£195	3	£2817	Notice board	£1,070	£195	1	£1265
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Flower bed refurb (includes £150 for new plants)	£750	2	£1650
Nature/tree trail install part of cost	£5,604		£5604
Breedon gravel path-	£5,450		£5450
Fountain	£3500		£3500
Drainage main entrance	£2500		£2500
Bat monitor	£350		£350
willow area (Preparation of area for growing willow cuttings free.)	£350		£350
Total funding sought			£19,986

Title	Feasibility study intersection of Hampstead Way and Meadway
Raised by (Councillor)	Councillor Rohit Grover
Ward	Garden Suburb
Area Committee	Finchley & Golders Green
Member Request	Feasibility study with the intention of improving road safety at the roundabout at the intersection of Hampstead Way and Meadway.
Funding Required (£)	TBC

## 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As identified above Members of the Council have requested that the Committee consider requests for CIL funding. In line with guidance for Members' route to support applications for CIL funding, the Committee is asked to determine the desired course of action.
- 2.2 CIL funding can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure (as outlined in section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59, as amended) to support the development of a local area. The Act specifically names roads and transport, flood defences, schools and education facilities, medical facilities and recreational facilities; but is not restrictive. Therefore the definition can extend to allow the levy to fund a very broad range of facilities provided they are 'infrastructure'.
- 2.3 Further examples are: play areas, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, district heating schemes, police stations and community safety facilities. The flexibility in how the funds can be applied is designed to give local areas the opportunity to choose the infrastructure they need to deliver their Local Plan.
- 2.4 Guidance states that the levy is intended to focus on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision, unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development. Therefore

if funds are intended to be used to address existing deficiencies, it is recommended that funds are used to either increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, where it is recognised as necessary to support development in the area.

- 2.5 Guidance states that local authorities must allocate at least 15% of levy receipts to spend on priorities that should be agreed with the local community in areas where development is taking place. Therefore a decision was made to honour the provision of a 15% contribution to each of the Council's Area Committee. This is capped at £150k per committee per year.
- 2.6 Applications relating to requests should be made to this Area Committee via Members' Items as outlined in the Council's Constitution. In line with guidance, applications submitted by Members should receive an initial assessment by an appropriate Officer, and should be accompanied by a recommendation (i.e. that the Committee should support or refuse the application).
- 2.7 Members should note that the committee has the power to discharge CIL-related environmental infrastructure projects and therefore has joint budget responsibility across the Area Committees which can be spent in 2018/19. Furthermore it is noted that any request can be considered only by this Committee if it is in line with its terms of reference as contained in the Council's Constitution.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Post decision implementation depends on the decision taken by the Committee, and the assessing officer's recommendation.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.1.1 The Committee has an allocated budget for Barnet Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from which it can award funds to Area Committee grant applications. Any allocation of funds will be assessed by Officers.
- 5.1.2 The Committee is able to award funding of up to £25,000 per project for CIL Funding. Requests for funding must be in line with the Council's priorities which are outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020.

#### **5.2 Social Value**

- 5.2.1 Requests for CIL funding provide an avenue for Members to give consideration to funding requests which may have added social value.

#### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 Council Constitution, Article 7 contains the responsibilities of the Area Committees, which includes to: "Determine the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding

within the constituency up to a maximum of £25,000 per scheme / project in each case subject to sufficient of the budget allocated to the committee being unspent.”

#### **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

#### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Requests for Funding allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council’s Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

#### **5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

#### **5.7. Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1. Not applicable in the context of this report

#### **5.8. Insight**

5.8.1. None in context of this report.

### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Meeting of the Community Leadership Committee 8 March 2016 Area Committee Funding – Savings from non- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) budgets: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38413/Area%20Committee%20Funding%20Savings%20from%20non-%20Community%20Infrastructure%20Levy%20CIL%20budgets.pdf>

6.2 Review of Area Committees – operations and delegated budgets (24 June 2015): <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24009/Area%20Committees%20%20Community%20Leadership%20Committee%2025%20June%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>